

REMARKS

The following remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed on September 8, 2005. Prior to entrance of this Amendment, claims 1-39 were pending in this Application. Upon entrance of this Amendment, claims 5-13, 20-28 and 37-57 will remain pending in this Application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 14, 15, 17, 19, 29, 31, 33 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wirsching (U.S. Patent No. 575,407). Claims 16, 18, 30, 32, 34 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wirsching. Response is hereby made to all of these rejections. In addition, the Office Action indicated that claims 37-39 are allowable. The Office Action further indicated that claims 5-13, and 20-28 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Response is hereby made to all of the above rejections and objections.

As a starting point, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-13, 20-28 and 37-39. Applicant has herein amended claims 5-7, 10, 11 and 20 in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which these claims previously depended. Claims 8, 9, 12, 13 and 21 - 28 as previously presented now depend from an allowable base claim. It is believed, therefore, that claims 5-13 and 20-28 as presented after this amendment are all allowable.

In order to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant has herein cancelled, without prejudice, rejected claims 1-4, 14-19, and 29-36. It should be understood that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 14-19, and 29-36 and is only cancelling these claims at this time to advance the prosecution of this Application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 1-4, 14-19, and 29-36 as pending, or claims having a scope consistent with these claims, in a later application.

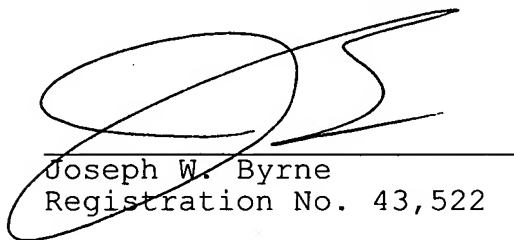
Finally, Applicant has also amended the application herein to add new claims 40-57, each of which are fully supported by the disclosure. With respect to claims 40-57, each of these claims depend from an allowable base claim. Because added claims 40-57 depend from an allowable base claim, and because claims 40-57 each add one or more limitations to the base claim from which they each depend, each of claims 40-57 is narrower in scope than the base claim from which it depends and is also therefore allowable.

Notwithstanding that added claims 40-57 are allowable because they each depend from an allowable base claim, each of these claims is also allowable because each of these claims contain one or more limitations that patently distinguish each claim from the prior art, including *Wirsching*, and therefore each of added claims 40-57 is allowable for this reason as well.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application

should be allowed. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned below if it will aid in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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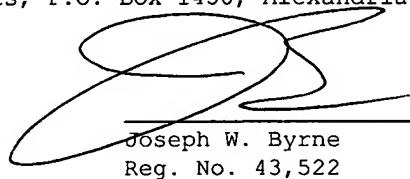
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Date: March 8, 2006



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